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Escambia County

A FLORIDA COUNTY GUIDE · PANHANDLE & EMERALD COAST

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REGION

Panhandle & Emerald Coast

COMMUNITIES TO START WITH

Pensacola, Pensacola Beach, Perdido Key, Century

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A historic Gulf city, naval aviation, major healthcare and barrier-island beaches anchor Florida's westernmost county.

Escambia is Florida's westernmost county, joining Pensacola's historic urban and naval center with barrier-island beaches, suburban and military-adjacent communities, and the rural north around Century. The Gulf and bay system creates a different transportation and storm-planning map for each part of the county.

Military and defense, healthcare, education, government, tourism, manufacturing, construction and port activity support the economy. I-10 and U.S. 29 handle regional movement, while bay and barrier-island bridges, U.S. 98 and surface roads can become the defining part of a commute or evacuation plan.

Compare one urban or suburban option with the actual beach or rural alternative. Drive the required bridge, map military-gate or hospital access, and verify flood, storm-surge, evacuation, wind, roof, drainage, septic and insurance conditions for the exact property.

Lifestyle: Military · Historic city · Beaches

Escambia County by the numbers

Population Census estimate	325,923	At the last full count 2020 Census	321,905
Median age	38.1	Aged 65 and over	17.9%
Under 18	20.9%	Median household income	\$67,500
Median home value what owners estimate	\$257,200	Homeownership	64.8%
People per household	2.38	Average commute	23.5 minutes

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, published January 2026, read September 19, 2026. Survey figures are estimates; median home value is what owners estimate their home is worth, not a sale price.

Communities to compare

Pensacola

Pensacola is the county's principal city and center for healthcare, higher education, government, culture and naval aviation. Compare downtown, established neighborhoods and suburban addresses by job corridor, flood conditions, building age and the route to I-10 or military installations.

Perdido Key

Perdido Key is a barrier-island community near the Alabama line with beaches, condos and a quieter coastal pattern. Review the limited road network, evacuation route, condominium reserves and assessments, flood and wind coverage and access to Pensacola services.

Pensacola Beach

Pensacola Beach sits on Santa Rosa Island with Gulf access and a strong visitor economy. Bridge dependence, leasehold structure, evacuation, storm surge, wind, rental rules and mainland service access are fundamental property questions.

Century

Century anchors the rural north near the Alabama line and U.S. 29. Housing can be less expensive than the urban coast, but employment, healthcare, broadband, utilities, storm recovery and the long trip to Pensacola require direct testing.

Checks before Escambia County becomes the answer

- ☐ **Choose urban, island or rural north.** Tie the shortlist to the actual job, military installation, hospital, school and weekly-service corridor before comparing distant parts of Escambia.
- ☐ **Drive every required bridge or gate.** Test the bay, beach or Perdido route and any military-access routine during normal and busy periods; identify the practical alternate route.
- ☐ **Know the evacuation zone.** Use Escambia's address tool for the evacuation zone and storm-surge context, then plan route, timing, pets and shelter well before a warning.
- ☐ **Inspect wind, flood and building condition.** Review roof, openings, elevation, flood information, permits, drainage and insurance for coastal, bayfront and older urban property.
- ☐ **Map healthcare from the shortlist.** Pensacola has major hospitals and specialists; confirm routine and emergency travel from barrier islands and north county.
- ☐ **Check roads, septic and stormwater.** For rural and fringe properties, verify road maintenance, well or septic service, drainage, broadband and current infrastructure projects.

Questions to answer for Escambia County

Pensacola and the barrier islands are distinct

The urban center, Pensacola Beach, Perdido Key and Century serve different lifestyles and travel patterns. Compare the entire operating cost of each location.

Military and healthcare are major anchors

Naval aviation, defense, hospitals, education, government, port activity and tourism create several employment centers across the county.

Specialty care centers on Pensacola

The urban area has substantial medical services, while beach and north-county addresses require longer or bridge-dependent trips. Verify the network and route.

Bridges and I-10 shape movement

I-10 and U.S. 29 support regional access, while barrier-island and bay crossings determine many local trips. Test closures, seasonal traffic and alternatives.

Gulf readiness is part of ownership

Storm surge, flooding, wind, rain and evacuation demand current official maps, a building-level inspection, an insurance quote and a workable household plan.

Places that reveal the county

National Naval Aviation Museum

More than 150 restored aircraft and 4,000 artifacts on Naval Air Station Pensacola, free to enter, with base access rules that change.

Historic Pensacola Village

Blocks of restored buildings in downtown Pensacola, from an 1805 French Creole house to an 1832 church, on one ticket good for a week.

Fort Pickens

A five-sided brick fort of 21.5 million bricks at the end of Santa Rosa Island, held by the Union through the whole Civil War.

Pensacola MESS Hall

A hands-on science center on Wright Street where the visitors run the experiments themselves.

Johnson Beach

The Perdido Key beach named for a soldier killed in Korea, and one of the few beaches open to Black families under segregation.

Veterans Memorial Park Pensacola

The Wall South, a half-scale permanent copy of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial carrying more than 58,000 names, on the downtown bayfront.

Pensacola Beach

Quartz sand washed down from the Appalachians, squeaking underfoot, on the longest barrier island in the panhandle.

Gulf Islands National Seashore

White quartz barrier islands, old coastal forts and 135,000 protected acres running from Florida into Mississippi.

Pensacola Lighthouse & Maritime Museum

A 150-foot tower of 1859 on a bluff inside the naval air station, 177 steps up to the lantern, with the keepers' quarters as a museum.

Pensacola Museum of Art

Modern and contemporary art in the city's old jail, where some galleries were cells.

Fort Barrancas

Three fortifications on one bluff, Spanish and American, joined by an underground tunnel, on the naval air station.

Bay Bluffs Park

Red clay bluffs above Escambia Bay on the Scenic Highway, closed since 2023 while the boardwalks are rebuilt.

Perdido Key State Park

White sand and rolling sea oat dunes on Perdido Key, with boardwalks over the dunes and an honor box at the gate.

Big Lagoon State Park

Seven hundred acres on the Intracoastal Waterway with a four-story tower looking across to Perdido Key and the Gulf.

Blue Wahoos Stadium

A 5,038-seat ballpark on Pensacola Bay, home of the Blue Wahoos, a Double-A club of the Miami Marlins.

Beaches in Escambia County

Always verify current parking, fees, water quality, lifeguard coverage and posted rules before leaving.

Perdido Key State Park Beach

Pensacola Beach

Quietwater Beach

Opal Beach

Johnson Beach

Casino Beach

Park West Beach

Langdon Beach

Where to check

Escambia County Government · Official county services, departments, projects and resident information.	myescambia.com
Escambia Know Your Zone · Address-based evacuation zones, storm-surge scenarios, shelters and routes.	myescambia.com
Escambia Transportation & Traffic · County roadway planning, improvement and traffic-operations resources.	myescambia.com
Escambia Current Projects · Official upcoming and active infrastructure projects by district.	myescambia.com